

REMARKS

It is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections issued in the Final Action dated June 4, 2004.

Status of the Claims

The Final Action addresses all of applicants' claims, namely claims 1, 3 to 39, 41, 42, 47 and 49 to 66. Claims 1, 4, 41, 47, 56 to 62, and 64 to 66 are amended. Claims 67 to 86 inclusive have been added. No claim has been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3 to 39, 41, 42, 47 and 49 to 86 are presented for the Examiner's consideration.

Discussion of the Final Action dated June 4, 2004  
and the Advisory Action dated September 9, 2004

It is requested respectfully that the Examiner consider the following remarks in connection with the continued examination of the present application.

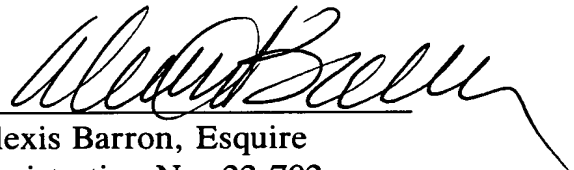
In applicants' aforementioned August Reply, applicants explained in detail the law applicable to "anticipatory" rejection and also applicants' claim recitations which clearly and definitively distinguish applicants' claimed subject matter over the alleged anticipatory reference, namely the Watts publication (published international Application No. WO 97/05903). In an effort to accelerate prosecution and to enable applicants to understand the basis for the anticipatory rejection, it is requested earnestly that the Examiner explain why the involved claims are considered to be anticipated, taking into account applicants' detailed explanation, as set forth in the applicants' August Reply, of the disclosure of the Watts publication and the claim recitations which distinguish over

this disclosure.

Similarly, it is requested respectfully that applicants be given the benefit of the Examiner's reasoning as to why applicants' claims are considered obvious, taking into account applicants' detailed explanation, also set forth in the August Reply, as to why applicants' claims are considered non-obvious. If the Examiner disagrees with the principles of law discussed in applicants' traversal of the Examiner's §103 rejection or the applicable facts relating to the disclosure of the involved reference (also the Watts publication) and the claimed subject matter, it is requested respectfully that the Examiner make this known to applicants to enable them to understand the basis for Examiner's position. This, too, should help to accelerate prosecution of the present application.

An early and favorable action is requested respectfully.

Respectfully submitted,  
Synnestvedt & Lechner LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexis Barron", written over a horizontal line.

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